SCENE 1
EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

It's a beautiful autumn day as 10-year-old DAVID MARTINEZ and his friends, SCOTTIE, a pudgy little kid who is always eating something; MARY ELLEN, a black girl with long legs who is very athletic; and ERIC, the "brain" of the group, walk down the street carrying pumpkins that each of them has just picked from the local pumpkin patch. They are laughing and having a good time. Eric tries to balance his on top of his head. OPENING TITLES and MUSIC play over the scene.

DAVID
(beamng)
Now this is what I call a pumpkin!

David's is perfectly shaped.

ERIC
Hey Scottie! Your pumpkin kind of reminds me of you. It's a wide body!

Mary Ellen and David laugh.

SCOTTIE
Watch it "slide rule" or you're going to be wearing it for a hat!

Everybody laughs as they near Mrs. Oliver's house, which is next door to David's. MRS. OLIVER, an old cantankerous woman in her 70s, is out raking leaves in her garden. Just then Mary Ellen notices EDDIE MALONE, age 12, and his friend DON MACDONALD drive up with Eddie's brother FRANK, age 16. Frank just got his driver's license and with it an old junky Fiat convertible. Frank thinks it's a great car even though it's not. And Eddie and Don think they are pretty cool riding around with the top down.

MARY ELLEN
Oh no. Look at the sludge that just creeped in.

David groans.

DAVID
Not Eddie and Don.